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School Committee Minutes 04/27/2010

Approved by the Arlington School Committee on June 8, 2010

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY APRIL 27, 2010
7:30 P.M.

Present:

Mr. Joseph Curro Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham Vice Chair, Ms. Cindy Starks Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, and Mr. Judson Pierce

Dr. Kathleen Bodie Superintendent, Dr. Wallis Raemer Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education, Brian Boudreau Student Representatives, and Karen Fitzgerald Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Mr. Joseph Curran

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 9:03 p.m. and returned at 9:06 p.m.
Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 9:06 p.m. and returned at 9:09 p.m.
Mr. Ryder exited the meeting at 9:40 p.m.
Mr. Thielman exited the meeting at 9:45 p.m. and returned at 9:50 p.m.
Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Mr. Curro opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed Brian Boudreau, Student Representative.

Reflection, Remembrance, and Recognition

Mr. Curro expressed his recognition to the Patriots Day parade organized by Mr. Brian Greeley and Grand Marshall Mrs. Marie Krepelka. Mr. Curro shared an inspirational quotation from Thomas Jefferson.

Mr. Curro recognized the Delegation of Nagaokakyo Board along with Ms. Rieko Tanaka and Ms Sue Sheffler. The Board of Education Director of Nagaokakyo, two Japanese students and Arlington Public Schools student Robert Harrison spoke and expressed how proud they are to be present tonight and how they appreciate the close relationship with our sister city that has been going on for the past 26 years. Mr. Skidmore, Principal of Arlington High School, presented gifts to the Board of Education Director.

Public Participation

- Mr. Sean Harrington, junior of Arlington High School requested an agenda item to support the Pledge of Allegiance at the next School Committee meeting.
- Mr. Kenneth Marquis asked the committee to support bring back the Park West Program.

Human Rights Commission

Members of the Human Rights Commission Ms. Nancy Rhoads and Ms. Stacy Davison asked the School Committee to be a co-sponsor to Stand Against Racism and to support the organized events to raise awareness that racism and all forms of prejudice still exist.

Mr. Thielman moved to co- sponsor Stand Against Racism this weekend in Arlington, seconded by Mr. Heigham.
Voted: 6-0

Town Meeting Warrant Article Discussion

During the regular School Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 the School Committee voted on the following Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

ARTICLE 29 TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE/CROSBY SCHOOL

~~~~~ **ARTICLE 30 TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE/PARMENTER SCHOOL**

~~~~~ **ARTICLE 31 DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE/CROSBY SCHOOL**

~~~~~ **ARTICLE 32 DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE/PARMENTER SCHOOL**

**Ms. Starks Motioned: The School Committee to declare the Crosby and Parmenter Schools permanent surplus (no longer needed as schools) and to inform the Board of Selectmen of this decision, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**  
**Voted: 5-1, Mr. Pierce voting No**

**Ms. Heigham Motioned: The full School Committee supports warrant articles 29 and 30 to be amended to read respectively, "To see if the Town will vote to transfer permanently the care, custody, management, and control of the Crosby and/or the appurtenant land to the Board of Selectmen for disposition or to any other Town board or officer for any other specific municipal purpose." And "To see if the Town will vote to transfer permanently the care, custody, management, and control of the Parmenter and/or the appurtenant land to the Board of Selectmen for disposition or any other Town board or officer for any other specific municipal purpose, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 5-1, Mr. Pierce voting No**

**Ms. Starks Motioned: The Arlington School Committee request that the Board of Selectmen include the attached resolution, as amended to their report on Warrant Articles 31 and 32, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham Motioned: The Arlington School Committee supports Warrant Articles 31 and 32 in principle and authorizes the Chair of the School Committee to work with Town Counsel and the Board of Selectmen to explore mechanisms for guaranteeing the use of proceeds from the sale(s) or lease(s) of the Crosby and Parmenter Schools for the Arlington Public Schools capital needs, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 5-1, Mr. Pierce voting No**

#### **RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PARMENTER AND CROSBY SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS** the Parmenter and Crosby Schools served as elementary schools for the students of Arlington for many decades; and

**WHEREAS** both schools were removed from service as public school buildings in 1983 and have since remained in a state of temporary surplus; and

**WHEREAS** these facilities host important educational services, but enjoy no current or prospective use as public school buildings; and

**WHEREAS** the School Committee has declared no further need for the Crosby and Parmenter Schools as institutions of public education; and

**WHEREAS** the voters of Arlington have approved debt exclusions for the purpose of renovating and/or rebuilding all seven existing elementary schools in town; and

**WHEREAS** the Massachusetts School Building Authority is currently undertaking a feasibility study of the Thompson School rebuild and/or renovation project; and

**WHEREAS** completion of the aforementioned feasibility study may lead to an offer of state financial assistance for the

Thompson rebuild and/or renovation project; and

**WHEREAS** any state assistance will be conditioned upon a demonstration by the Town of Arlington of an ability and willingness to fund a share of project costs; and

**WHEREAS** revenues from the future sale and/or lease of the Crosby and Parmenter Schools have been identified as potential sources of funding that might be applied to the rebuild and/or renovation of the Thompson Elementary School; and

**WHEREAS** RKG associates -- in conjunction with the Town Manager, Department of Planning and Community Development, and other public officials and private citizens -- has undertaken a comparative analysis of reuse scenarios for the Crosby and Parmenter Schools;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2010 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Arlington does hereby recognize the valued educational services provided to the community by the longstanding institutional tenants of the Parmenter and Crosby Schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Meeting does express its support in principle for the application of future gross revenues from the sale and/or lease of the Crosby and Parmenter Schools to the renovation and/or rebuild of the Thompson Elementary School and other Arlington Public Schools capital needs.

## **ARTICLE 27 HOME RULE LEGISLATION/GROUP INSURANCE COMMISSION**

After the committee discussed the Warrant Article 27 Home Rule Legislation/Group Insurance Commission and the impact this could have with the union negotiations, and after Mr. Curro noted that the School Committee is not required to take a vote, the committee agreed not to recommend any action on this article.

### **Budget Update**

#### **Finance Committee Update**

After Dr. Kathleen Bodie met with the Finance Committee, it was recommended to Dr. Bodie to send a request for a Reserve Fund Transfer by May 1, 2010 to close the FY 10 budget gap. Dr. Bodie was informed that the Finance Committee would be giving the Arlington School Committee an additional \$142,000 toward the FY 11 Budget. The Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen's sentiments are for the School Committee to restore and address the Traffic Supervisors to ensure safety for all students, but Dr. Bodie noted the decision would be the School Committee members to make.

**Mr. Thielman moved to direct the Superintendent to request a Special Reserve Fund Transfer for Special Education FY 10 for \$250,000. Seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham motioned that the Arlington School used the full \$142,000 transfer from the Finance Committee to restore at least 3 positions: up to 3 special Education Positions and/or a Transition Counselor, seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

**Voted: 5-1, Ms. Starks voting No.**

Dr. Bodie read the following FY 11 Budget Add-Backs dated April 27, 2010.

### **FY 11 BUDGET ADD- BACKS**

**April 27,2010**

| <b>ADD-BACK</b>                        | <b>AMOUNT</b> | <b>IMPACT COMMENTS</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Classroom Teachers - Elementary        | 210,000       | Equalizes class sizes and ensures that no school has more than 27 students in a class. Includes adding 8 additional sections/teaching periods of art, music, and physical education (PE). |
| World Language - Middle School - Grade | 50,000        | Allows world languages to be taught as exploratory courses in the sixth grade. Students who are not receiving reading                                                                     |

|                                             |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6                                           |         | support will have an opportunity to study Spanish, French, and Latin for one quarter. In seventh grade, students will choose one world language to study.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| English Language Arts Teacher - High School | 50,000  | Allows more English electives to be offered in Grades 11 and 12, which reduces English class sizes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Transition Counselor – High School          | 50,000  | Provides transition support for students returning to the high school after extended absences.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Math Support - Middle School                | 50,000  | Restores a math support position in the middle school. In the FY11 budget, the number of math support teachers who provide additional math instruction to both regular education and special education students is reduced from two to one. Currently, students who struggle with mathematics as identified by MCAS scores and classroom performance receive 2-3 additional periods of math instruction per week. With only one math support teacher, approximately half the students who presently receive additional instruction in mathematics will receive that support next year. |
| Art/Music Teachers - Elementary             | 78,000  | Restores the full elementary art and music program in the elementary schools (one class of art and music per week). Without this addition, students will receive art and music instruction only half the year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Physical Education - Elementary             | 105,000 | Restores the full (2 classes per week) physical education program in the elementary schools. Without this addition, students will only have physical education instruction one period per week.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| .5 Physical Education - Middle School       | 25,000  | Restores a half-time physical education teacher in the middle school. Without this addition, PE class sizes will average 40 students.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| .4 Art - High School                        | 25,000  | Restores a part-time (0.4) art teacher in the high school. Without this position, 40-60 students who have selected art as an elective will not be able to take art and will likely have a directed study.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| .4 Family & Consumer Science- High School   | 20,000  | Restores a half-time position in Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) which provides more electives opportunities for students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                         |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACE & Drama - Middle School             | 42,000 | Partially restores the ACE and Drama program in the middle school. Neither ACE nor Drama is funded in the FY11 budget.                                                                                                                                                            |
| Library Teacher Assistants - Elementary | 80,000 | Restores a library-teaching assistant in each elementary school. Without this addition, elementary libraries will need to be staffed by parent volunteers, resulting in reduced times when students can take out books and eliminates any formal library program.                 |
| ACE Teacher Support - Elementary        | 50,000 | Restores one ACE position at the elementary level. This addition will continue the support teachers received this year in differentiating the curriculum to provide more challenge for students.                                                                                  |
| Traffic Supervisors (8)                 | 55,000 | Restores 8 of the 31 traffic supervisors, one for each elementary school and one for the middle school. Principals, with advice from the police department, will determine where they feel that the safety of students is most compromised by the movement of cars during morning |

|                                 |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 |                    | drop-off and afternoon pick-up and traffic supervisors will be assigned accordingly.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Reading Support - Middle School | 50,000             | Restores a reading teacher at the middle school. The FY11 budget only funds one reading teacher. Currently, two reading teachers provide reading support/instruction. Without this addition, many students who have been identified as needing reading support will not receive this support. |
| Athletic Fees                   | 50,000             | Reduces the proposed increase in athletic fees by 20%, which affects 55-60% of the high school students.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$1,000,000</b> | ""                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### **Budget Materials for Town Meeting**

Dr. Bodie offered a draft of the budget materials to the School Committee members to review before sending to Town Meeting and suggested the committee to authorize the chair to review all final documents before sending out.

**Mr. Thielman moved the Chair of the Arlington School Committee to meet with Superintendent Bodie to approve the final review of the Budget Book to be presented to Town Meeting 2010, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

It was suggested to have as many School Committee members present at Town Meeting as possible.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Bodie announced that Arlington Public Schools received two grants: Verizon Grant for after school programs in the amount of \$10,000 and the Sanborn Grant for promoting non tobacco use and sun safety. Dr. Bodie announced the Ottoson Middle School Grant, which offers 5-2-1 programs free to middle school students in the morning.

### **Superintendent's Evaluation**

Mr. Joseph Curro presented Dr. Bodie's Superintendent Evaluation, which had been compiled by past chairman Mr. Joseph Curran. Mr. Curran, Mr. Curro, Ms. Heigham, Ms. Starks and Mr. Thielman completed Dr. Bodie's evaluation. Mr. Curro said full evaluations are available in the School Committee Office and will become a part of Dr. Bodie's record.

### **Secretary's Report**

**Ms. Starks reported on all correspondence received:** Draft Minutes for review January 26, 2010, March 23 and March 25, 2010; Letters about School Committee appointments and Subcommittees. Letters of support for ACE, Drama and corporate sponsorship; Appointment letter to Human Rights Commission; Ottoson and Stratton Newsletters dated April 16, 2010; B. Sullivan Town Manager letter to K. Bodie dated April 20, 2010 about crossing guards; Cherry Blossom Festival at the Ottoson Middle School; Budget amendment emails from Representative Garballey; Save the date notice May 19, 2010 for Teens in Transition Symposium notice.

**Consent Agenda** all items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

\*Approval of Warrant # 10144 Total Warrant Amount \$ 260,283.21, dated April 13, 2010.

\*Minutes for Approval: none

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

### **Roundtable**

Committee members reported on the following events and meetings they had attended over the past.

Mr. Curro attended the Bishop School fair and concert. Dr. Allison-Ampe, Ms. Starks and Mr. Pierce attend the SEPAC movie – Including Samuel. Mr. Thielman attended the Brackett School art show. Ms. Heigham and Dr. Allison-Ampe meet with Town members regarding the budget and Ms. Heigham suggested that all School Committee members attend and support the budget.

#### **Executive Session (collective bargaining union and non-union)**

**Mr. Thielman moved to enter Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting might have a detrimental effect, collective bargaining may also be conducted, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and exit only for adjournment, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Pierce Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, and Mr. Curro Yes.**

**Voted: 6-0**

#### **Adjournment**

**Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 10:24 p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Respectfully submitted by  
Karen Fitzgerald  
Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee/cs